

# Duxbury Beach Association Proposes Citizens' Beach Committee Of Eleven

**Would Include Chairmen Of Selectmen,  
Finance Committee And Planning Board**

If a proposal made on May 23 by the Duxbury Beach Association trustees to the Board of Selectmen is acted on favorably, a permanent Citizens Beach Committee will be formed to discuss the management of the beach and the most satisfactory way of operating it in the future. The committee would include Chairmen of the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and of the Finance Committee; the president of the Taxpayers Association, president of the Rural Society, commodore of the Yacht Club and five persons not holding office.

This means in substance that the town will be represented on a general committee that would spearhead any further action needed to keep the State from taking over Duxbury Beach. In a letter to the Board of Selectmen dated May 22, Mr. Frederick S. Pratt, Chairman of Trustees of the Beach Association, said:

"Although the public hearings on the proposed State taking of beaches before the Legislative Committee on Harbors and Public Lands are over, and although statements in the newspapers attributed to Senator Olson, Chairman of the Committee, give us some grounds for hoping that Duxbury will be left undisturbed to handle its own affairs, nevertheless the Committee has not yet reported, and none of us know what sort of bill will be reported or how the Legislature will act on it.

"It is therefore possible that the fight isn't over and that further action on behalf of Duxbury may be required. Moreover the hearings have raised the question as to whether or not it is in the best interests of Duxbury for the trustees of the Duxbury Beach Association to continue to have the sole responsibility for operating the beach to the satisfaction of Duxbury and of the general public.

"We therefore believe that a permanent Duxbury Citizens Beach Committee would be advisable. Such a Committee should spearhead any further efforts needed to fight the State's taking in this or in future years, and should consider all other problems of ownership and control, give advice, and cooperate actively in operating problems, all for the

purpose of protecting Duxbury, of keeping the beach in its natural state, and of continuing to provide service to the general public. We request the immediate appointment of such a Committee by the Moderator and suggest, subject to his approval, that the Committee consist of:

The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, of the Planning Board and of the Finance Committee.

The President of the Taxpayers Association, the Commodore of the Yacht Club and the President of the Rural Society.

Five individuals, not holding Town offices, selected to give proper representation to the parts of the Town most affected.

"We believe you will agree with this suggestion, and if so, we hope you will take the necessary steps to put it into effect."

It is the opinion of the Association that the ultimate disposition of the beach will depend largely on the recommendations made by the Citizens' Committee and the reaction of the townspeople to such recommendations.

This action by the Association is further indication that Duxbury stands firm and united against any outside control of its beach.

"Because of the public interest that has been aroused in the issue of the State's taking over Duxbury Beach," Mr. Frederick T. Pratt said yesterday, "I hope and believe that responsible citizens of our Town will be able to devote all the time and thought needed to reach a common objective. It is the feeling of the Association that the proposed Citizens Committee is an important step in the right direction. It will give us assurance that our beach will be maintained for the benefit of all of Duxbury and that the facilities for the use and enjoyment of the public are adequate. We want all possible cooperation in furthering the primary purpose of the Beach Association itself which, in accordance with the original trust agreement, was the protection of the beach for the benefit of Duxbury. The trustees are, as they have always been, anxious to serve the best interests of the Town."

The trustees of the Duxbury Beach Association are Mr. Eben H. Ellson, Mr. Frederick T. Pratt, and Mr. William H. Young.